

PEACE MAIL

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WEEKLY UPDATE: Implementing the Peace Accords

This callout box includes a weekly update on releases and work specifically related implementing the Final Peace Accord between the Government and the FARC in Colombia.

A contentious voting outcome for the Special Transitional Peace Constituencies has left the legal project's fate uncertain. On November 30th, 50 Colombian senators voted in favor of the project, which is one vote shy of what Directive Committee of the Senate argues are the 51 votes required for the initiative to pass. However, the Santos Government argues that two Constitutional Court precedents support a vote in favor with only 50 votes, and thus, the initiative was approved at the end of last month. One primary tension regarding this initiative is that the deadline for candidates for congress is December 11th; as such, in the likely absence of clear resolution of the voting question, these Special Transitional Peace Constituencies will not be possible until the 2022 elections.¹

The Government of Colombia has announced that its **public forces have achieved the year's goal of coca eradication**: 50,100 hectares. These 50,000 hectares were part of a forced eradication program intended to complement the crop substitution initiatives already in place. The goal for 2018 is 63,000 hectares, 40,000 of which will be removed through forced eradication.²

ELN claims responsibility for death of 10 persons in Magüi Payán

The ELN has taken responsibility for the death of ten people on November 27th, which resulted, according to the guerrilla group, from an attack on them by the United Guerrillas of the Pacific (GUP). Other versions of the encounter have suggested that the ELN is responsible for 13 deaths, and that individuals who were killed were social leaders and regular civilians. Local government officials have reported that the clash was between the ELN and the criminal group "*Resistencia Campesina*" in a dispute over control of former FARC territory. Investigations continue.³

Major General Eduardo Antonio Herrera Berbel resigns from ELN talks

Major General Herrera, who has been involved in the GoC-ELN peace talks since the first day, has resigned. The resignation came on the heels of Juan Camilo Restrepo's resignation in the prior Peace Mail reporting period, and has some worried about the fate of the peace dialogues in Quito.⁴